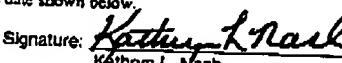


RECEIVED  
BEST AVAILABLE  
CENTRAL PATENT CENTER

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to the U.S. Patent Office at 703-872-9306, on the date shown below.

Dated: September 14, 2004      Signature:   
Kathryn L. Nash

SEP 14 2004

Docket No.: 65229-0010/GP-301542  
(PATENT)**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**In re Patent Application of:  
Michael Douglas et al.

Application No.: 09/656,677

Art Unit: 2125

Filed: September 7, 2000

Examiner: GANDHI, Jayprakash N..

For: METHOD FOR EARLY OPTIMIZATION OF A  
MANUFACTURING SYSTEM DESIGN**RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

MS Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicant hereby responds to the Office Action dated June 27, 2004 ("Office Action") as follows:

**A Current Listing of Claims** is reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 10 of this paper.

**This Page is Inserted by IFW Indexing and Scanning  
Operations and is not part of the Official Record**

**BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES**

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images include but are not limited to the items checked:

- BLACK BORDERS**
- IMAGE CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES**
- FADED TEXT OR DRAWING**
- BLURRED OR ILLEGIBLE TEXT OR DRAWING**
- SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES**
- COLOR OR BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS**
- GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS**
- LINES OR MARKS ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT**
- REFERENCE(S) OR EXHIBIT(S) SUBMITTED ARE POOR QUALITY**
- OTHER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.**

As rescanning these documents will not correct the image problems checked, please do not report these problems to the IFW Image Problem Mailbox.